# Bridle Trails' new additions enhance equestrian area

wo recent improvements at Bridle Trails State Park highlight its most unique feature as a state park: its equestrian area. A new judges tower and two renovated viewing stands bring new life to the park that draws local groups such as the Lake Washington Saddle Club for regional horse competitions and exhibitions. The park also offers 28 miles of trails for riders, hikers and joggers.

These projects are part of the "100 Connections" in the Centennial 2013 Plan that State Parks wants to complete by 2013, our 100th birthday. The third leg of the Bridle Trails capital project, scheduled for completion in 2007, is to install handicapped-accessible pathways and horse-mounting ramps in the parking lot.

Working in partnership with communities and organizations is the most important concept of the Plan. Before projects are selected, park planners, staff and often friends groups meet to talk about what would best serve the needs of the park and the public. The Bridle Trails State Park Foundation is raising funds to support the park.

It's these ongoing relationships that Bridle Trails Ranger Mary Wellborn finds rewarding and worthwhile.

"Bridle Trails is the kind of a park that's part of a community, and the park has always benefited from that," Wellborn said. "For me, it's a very rewarding place to be, because people know what you're doing, and they care about what you're doing. There are a lot of bright and engaged people coming to you with ideas. It's pretty exciting."



Projects completed: A new judges tower (above) and renovated viewing stands in the equestrian area are two of the recent Centennial 2013

Plan improvements at Bridle Trails State Park.



### **Confluence Project dedicated at Cape Disappointment**



Confluence Project designer Maya Lin talks with Chinook Tribal Chairman Gary Johnson at the dedication ceremony Nov. 18.

Cape Disappointment State Park played host to the dedication of the Confluence Project on Nov. 18. Nearly 300 people attended.

The site is one of seven projects planned by renowned artist Maya Lin along the confluences of the rivers traversed by Lewis and Clark. The project features a basalt fish-cleaning station, an amphitheater, a collection of cedar totem poles, an estuary viewing platform and trails.

Special guests included Lin, who designed the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C., members of the Chinook tribe and elected officials.

Twelve members of the Discovery Expedition Corps II re-enacted Captain Clark and his party's exploration of Cape Disappointment. The re-enactors were stationed around the park throughout the day. The day's events culminated with a campfire on Waikiki Beach.

The project is expected to be completed in April.

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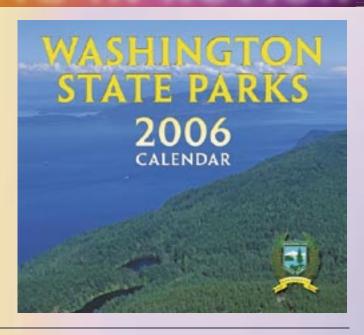
Renee Sweetman • Warren Wire • Bill Slusher • Lew and Jean Sutton • Susie Rickerts • Gretchen Newman • Patricia Jatezak • James H. Aubert • Bruce Gage/North American Tasar Association • Marvin Harris • Susan and Charlie Brown • Tab and Carol Tabacek • Reco Bembry/Bembry Consulting Services • Barbara Dugaw • Washington Recreation & Park Association • Bob Morse • Naches Ranger District • East Valley Fire Department • Washington State Department of Ecology • Methow Conservancy • Tacoma Power • Bureau of Reclamation, Ephrata • Terrace Heights Improvement Association • Friends of Camano Island Parks • Dan Blatt • James S. Russell • Jan P. Klippert • Rena Marken • Nicole Hellstrom • Washington Fotate Employees • Leavenworth National Fish Hatchery Complex • Ralph and Karen Munro • Capital Medical Center • National Coast Trail Association • The Olympian • Gayla Perini • Washington State Park Rangers Association • Washington Water Trails Association • Tri-Cities Visitor and Convention Bureau • Werner Furre • Friends of the South Cle Elum Depot • The Trust for Public Land • Centrum Arts and Creative Education • Bridle Trails Park Foundation • Citizens for Parks and Recreation • Grays Harbor County Commission • County of Garfield Board of County Commissioners • Pat and Darlene Bleakney • Columbia Gorge Windsurfing Association • Thurston County Noxious Weed Control Board • Lake Washington Saddle Club • Tom Rieger • Pateros Chamber of Commerce • Audubon Washington • Chinook Trail Association • Societ and Judy Whiting • Sharin J. Lee • Carol Bee • Helen Bee • Backcountry Horsemen of Washington • Echo Betrozoff • Chuck and Judythe Stewart • Scott Wise • KMPS Radio • Burnie and Beth Horton • Bridgeport Chamber of Commerce • Dana Miller • Phil and Candace Trautman • Mike and Susan Hoekstra • Susan Hines-Elzinga • Duncan Hollomon • Wendell and Wilma Carter • Friends of Fort Worden • Gary and Sandra Worthington • James R. Ricks • Erik Elzinga • Madeline Johnson • Alice Blandin • Dr. and Mrs. Wesley M. Brock • Lisa Byers • Mark Ph

### CENTENNIAL 2013 IN ACTION

## 2006 State Parks calendar on sale

The 2006 Washington State Parks Calendar is now available. Calendars may be purchased online at www.parks.wa.gov/specialorders and at calendars.com, and in person at State Parks headquarters in Tumwater, parks, REI, the University of Washington bookstore and kiosks at malls throughout Washington. The calendar sells for \$12.95.

The calendar features brilliant, full-color landscape photographs of some of the park system's unique features, including the green, gentle slopes of Columbia Hills, snowy peaks at Peshastin Pinnacles and the intimate water passageways of Jarrell Cove. The photographs are by Terry Donnelly, Charles Gurche, John Marshall, Michael Sedam and Gene Ahrens.







New playground equipment (above) delights a young boy and his mom at Flaming Geyser State Park. Volunteers and park staff also installed a 200-foot handicapped-accessible trail. St. Edward State Park completed a paving project as well (left), a 200-foot handicapped-accessible trail from the parking lot to the trail, and added two ADA parking stalls.

### Parks make progress on '100 Connections'

According to a 2005 project tally, 25 Centennial 2013 "100 Connections" projects are complete, and park staff reports progress on many of the projects remaining.

The Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission adopted 100 projects in parks all over the state as a focused "wish list" of park improvements. Communities, groups and volunteers are invited to donate money, labor and time to complete the projects. Commission members volunteered to complete a trailhead at Deception Pass last spring.

Other projects completed include interpretive and hiking trails, new playgrounds and equipment, interpretive centers, kitchen shelters and even a fish ladder.

Americorps volunteers completed a playground and a 200-foot, wheelchair-accessible trail at Flaming Geyser on National Public Lands Day in September. Supporters of St. Edward State Park completed a 200-foot trail and two parking stalls for the use of people with disabilities. The St. Edward State Park Playground Committee donated money, and Northshore Paving Co. donated time, staff and equipment.

### Ranger presented with Centennial Park Award



Ranger Reade Obern plays the fiddle at a summer park event.

The Commission awarded its fifth Centennial Park Award to Sacajawea State Park manager Reade Obern in November. The award recognizes parks that meet a high standard of quality.

Commissioner Joe Taller said that leadership of the staff makes it happen. "Each park is different on how they approach it and what they're doing, not only with the quality of the park but how they're connecting with the community."

The result is that "people see these parks as a great value and use them," Taller said.

Obern responded to the community's ideals and brought more family-oriented activities to the park, including the native Tule village, music events and Lewis and Clark programs.

Previous awards have been given to rangers Mike James at Scenic Beach, Mike Thomas at Yakima Sportsman, Rick Lewis at Pearrygin Lake and Mike Zimmerman at Fort Flagler.

### Recent accomplishments, activities in your state parks

Trail named for longtime activist: At its November meeting, the State Parks Commission approved naming a wildlife viewing trail at Leadbetter Point State Park after conservationist Martha Jordan. In recognition of her long-term commitment to wildlife conservation and stewardship on the Long Beach Peninsula, the trail will be named the "Martha Jordan Birding Trail." For the past 14 years, Jordan has been a working partner in the protection, enhancement and preservation of a 140-acre parcel at the park. In January 2003, trumpeter swans returned to their historic habitat in the park, largely due to Jordan's work and vigilance.

Commission supports Sound Greenway Trust proposal: The State Parks Commission has adopted a resolution supporting a Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust proposal to the 2006 Legislature to secure a capital budget allocation. The proposal would include funding for projects on State Parks lands within the Mountains to Sound Greenway. The Greenway is an area of more than 700,000 acres in public ownership

stretching along I-90 from Seattle to Ellensburg. The request will create and sustain safe public access to the Greenway and preserve a critical few remaining parcels along this National Scenic Byway.

Looking for war veterans: Were you or someone you know in a war or involved with supporting the war efforts on the home front? State Parks staff at the Lewis and Clark Interpretive Center is working with the Library of Congress and the American Folklife Center to collect audio- and videotaped oral histories for the Veterans History Project. U.S. veterans and civilians who were war industry workers, USO workers, flight instructors, medical volunteers and others are invited to tell their stories. State Parks is particularly interested in former soldiers or staff of area military forts such as Fort Canby, Fort Columbia or Fort Stevens. For more information, call the Lewis and Clark Interpretive Center at (360) 642-3029. To learn more about the project, go to the Library of Congress site online at www.loc.gov/vets.